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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES PRODUCTION TURBULENT IN 1953

Ups and downs marked the output of fishery products and byproducts in the United States and Alaska last year, according to a report made to Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay today by John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Declines occurred in the production of canned salmon, canned Maine sardines, canned Pacific and Jack mackerel, and frozen products while there were gains in the output of canned tuna, canned shrimp, canned anchovies, fish meal, and fish oils.

The total pack of canned fishery products for human consumption was about 10 percent less than the 647,000,000 pounds packed in 1952.

The output of canned salmon came to about 3,900,000 cases, as against 4,464,000 cases in 1952.

The Maine sardine pack amounted to approximately 2,000,000 cases, as compared with 3,531,000 cases in the previous year.

Production of canned Pacific and Jack mackerel dropped to about 593,000 cases from the 1952 pack of 1,525,000 cases.

The tuna pack amounted to about 9,520,000 cases, or approximately 400,000 cases more than in the previous year, for an all-time high.

Production of canned shrimp showed an increase of about 10 percent over the 1952 pack of 818,000 cases.

The output of canned anchovies increased sharply, but this will have little effect on the over-all supply of canned fish for domestic consumption since most of this pack is exported.

Production of increasingly important fish meal came to about 241,000 tons, as compared with 221,400 tons in 1952. The 1953 figure is believed to represent an all-time record.

The yield of fish oils amounted to about 20,500,000 gallons, or more than 4,000,000 gallons above the previous year's yield.

The output of frozen fishery products totaled about 275,000,000 pounds, as compared with 313,000,000 pounds in 1952.

The principal reasons given for production drops were failure of fish to appear in normal numbers and a lack of demand for certain products.

As a result of the declines in production, supplies of a number of items will be below normal in 1954.

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